

## ENERGY & AIR QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MEETING SUMMARY

May 23, 2000

#### Members Present:

John Ray (Chair)  
Carolyn Elefant (V-chair)  
Morris Altschuler  
Hans Ashar  
Bob Brown  
Bernard Bordenick  
Neal Goldenberg  
Milt Minneman  
Charlie Wilkes

#### Members Absent:

Doug Canter  
Stan Doore  
Jeffrey Komarow  
Susan Mitchell  
Ed Ohanian

#### Staff:

Ann Elsen

The Chair, John Ray, called the May 27, 2000 EAQAC meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Lobby Level Conference Room of the Executive Office Building in Rockville. The summary of the April 25, 2000 EAQAC meeting was approved. The agenda was modified to eliminate subcommittee meetings in order to focus on the activities of the full committee.

#### Selection Committee:

The selection committee has forwarded its recommendations to the County Executive's office. The recommendations include reappointment of several members whose terms have expired and new appointments to three vacancies. Two members: Carolyn Elefant, EAQAC Vice Chair, and Hansraj Ashar have served six years on the Committee, and their terms will expire at the end of June.

#### Transportation:

The Committee discussed the numbers and types of alternative fueled vehicles (AFVs) in the County fleet, and the new electric hybrid vehicles on the market. The County currently operates 24 compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles which make up 10% of the total fleet. There are no pure electric battery-powered or hybrid electric vehicles in the County fleet. CNG is currently less expensive than diesel, largely due to an experimental tariff provided by Washington Gas. Projected prices used by the Interagency Committee on Energy and Utility Management (ICEUM) in setting utility rates for FY 2001 show CNG fuel priced at \$.64 per gallon equivalent and diesel at \$.85 per gallon.

EAQAC members made the following comments regarding AFVs:

*A Hybrid electric vehicles typically have a price premium of approximately \$4000 over conventional vehicles. The major reason for the cost of electric vehicles being greater than that of conventional vehicles is that they are not being mass produced. Otherwise the cost would be comparable and the cost of operation would be less than that of conventional vehicles. However, companies marketing early models will probably take a loss in order to gain market acceptance.*

*A Pure electric battery-powered vehicles are about twice as efficient as internal combustion vehicles, because the electric power plant is about twice as efficient as the internal combustion*

*engine. Other factors, such as losses in the oil refinery (associated with the production of gasoline), and transmission losses are of minimal importance, when compared with that. In addition, the electric vehicle draws no power during idling (worst condition for internal combustion engine vehicles) and the electric vehicle charges the battery (regeneration) during deceleration, providing additional energy savings.@*

#### Strategic Planning:

The resolution for the Cities for Climate Protection campaign was signed by the County Executive on April 20, 2000 and forwarded to the County Council. It should appear on the Council agenda for introduction in the near future.

#### Air Quality and Health:

The County Council sent a reply to the EAQAC recommendation on approval of the BOE budget for maintenance to remediate and prevent future indoor air quality problems. John Ray read the Council's response to the Committee. The Air Quality subcommittee will determine the current status of maintenance in the schools and draft a letter to the BOE or the Council as appropriate.

Chapter 3 has been forwarded to the County Attorney. The subcommittee will review the current draft. There was also some discussion of the possible need for additional ozone monitors in the county.

#### Science Fair:

John Ray congratulated the Science Fair subcommittee on a wonderful job done this year. The Committee decided to invite the winners to the fall meeting with the County Executive. A winner has already given a well received presentation at the Rotary Club that funded the awards. Pictures of the winning projects will be added to the EAQAC web site.

#### Web Site:

Many sites currently have links to the EAQAC site, including the PSC site on consumer education. Carolyn will provide an automatic forwarding when the web site address changes so that these links will not be lost. Several areas of the web site need to be updated, including EAQAC meeting minutes and electric vehicle information.

Staff will continue to work on the purchase of the domain name and the transfer of the web site to the DEP server.

The chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:15 p.m.